

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00914 081547Z

70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /059 W

----- 082876

R 081315Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 143

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPWC HONOLULU

CINCPACFLT

CNO

AMCONSUL DHARHAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLAD, CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED, MILI, SA

SUBJECT: FLYING THE SAUDI FLAG

REF: STATE 14687

1. THE EMBASSY REPAZATED THE REFTEL TO CONGEN DHARHAN AND REQUESTED ITS VIEWS, INCLUDING THOSE OF U.S. OFFICIALS AT ARAMCO IF CONGEN THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE HELPFUL. OUR CONSENSUS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION IS THAT DISCONTINUING THE PRACTISE OF FLYING THE SAUDI FLAG AT THE FORE OF U.S. NAVY SHIPS ENTERING RAS TANURA WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED AND WOULD INJECT AN IRRITANT INTO SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS.

2. WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT MANY PROBLEMS ARE WITH US TODAY IN AGGRAVATED FORM BECAUSE WE PUT OFF TAKING ACTION ON THEM BECAUSE THE TIME NEVER SEEMED RIGHT FOR FACING UP TO

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00914 081547Z

THEM. WE JUDGE THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT FOR TAKING UP

THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION BUT CANNOT WITH ANY ASSURANCE  
CLAIM THAT IT WILL BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH IN THE FUTURE.  
ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS ALSO STRIKES US AS THE SORT OF  
PROBLEM WE CAN LIVE WITH FOR QUITE SOME TIME; WE HAVE  
ALREADY TOLERATED THE ANOMALY FOR OVER 25 YEARS.

3. WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY ARE.  
HOWEVER, IT IS FEASIBLE TO DISCONTINUE THE PRACTICE IF WE  
ARE WILLING TO PUT UP WITH A NEW IRRITANT--RELATIVELY MINOR--  
IN OUR RELATIONS. IT DOES NOT SEEM WORTH IT TO US, BUT WE  
CONCEDE THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO JUDGE.

4. IF A DECISION IS MADE TO DISCONTINUE THE PRACTICE, IT  
SHOULD BE DONE WITHOUT PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT. EXPLANATIONS IF  
REQUIRED SHOULD BE HANDLED AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVEL.  
IF WE GET TOO MUCH HAZARD WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BEGIN FLYING  
THE FLAG AGAIN. WE WOULD BE OPPOSED TO EXPENDING TOO  
MUCH GOOD WILL IN PUSHING THIS ISSUE.

5. PURSUANT TO MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND REQUESTS WE HAVE  
BEEN OBTAINING DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCES FOR THE FALCON TANKERS.  
IN VIEW OF INFO PARA 3 REFTEL SHOULD WE DISCONTINUE THE  
PRACTICE?

AKINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** D750047-0388  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
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**Subject:** FLYING THE SAUDI FLAG  
**TAGS:** CFED, MILI, SA, US  
**To:** STATE  
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